

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02948 172008Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 NASA-02 ERDA-07 OES-06
CCO-00 OTPE-00 EB-08 FCC-02 OC-06 COME-00 BIB-01 CU-04
OMB-01 /147 W

-----172016 082874 /44

R 171427Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1845

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAIRO 2948

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, XF

SUBJECT: ARAB SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS MEETING IN CAIRO

1. INAUGURAL 3-DAY MINISTERIAL-LEVEL SESSION OF ARAB SPACE
COMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION OPENED CAIRO FEBRUARY 15 WITH
MESSAGE FROM ARAB LEAGUE SEC GEN MAHMOUD RIAD (WHO IS STILL
RECOVERING FROM AUTO ACCIDENT INJURIES). DR. RIAD'S GREETING
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02948 172008Z

TO ASSEMBLY STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ORGANIZATION IN DEVELOPING
COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN ARAB COUNTRIES. JORDAN,
TUNISIA, OMAN, AND IRAQ REPORTEDLY WERE ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP
ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR TWO YEARS AT MEETING.
CONFERENCE ALSO DECIDED TO REDUCE SUBSCRIPTION SHARES
OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN FROM 6 TO 1. PRESS REPORTS
CONFERENCE ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES FOR OPERATIONS AND

EXECUTIVE STATUTES OF ORGANIZATION.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ARAB SPACE COMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION (NOTE: WORD "SPACE" IS MORE APT THAN "SATELLITE" IN NAME, ACCORDING TO CONTACTS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR, ALTHOUGH "ARABSAT" APPARENTLY IS ACCEPTED ACRONYM) IS INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ARAB LEAGUE. INAUGURAL CONFERENCE STEMS DIRECTLY FROM MEETING, THIRD OF SERIES, OF ARAB COMMUNICATIONS MINISTERS AT CAIRO IN APRIL 1976. PREVIOUS REPORTING INDICATES ORGANIZATION IS CAPITALIZED AT \$100 MILLION. TWENTY-ONE ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERS ARE PARTICIPANTS IN ORGANIZATION; SAUDI ARABIA, LIBYA, EGYPT, KUWAIT, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, LEBANON, QATAR, BAHRAIN, JORDAN, IRAQ, SUDAN, SYRIA, OMAN, ALGERIA, YEMEN DR.R., SOUTH YEMEN, TUNISIA, MOROCCO, SOMALIA, MAURITANIA AND PALESTINE. FIVE FOUNDING MEMBERS--SAUDI ARABIA, LIBYA, EGYPT, KUWAIT, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES--ALSO ARE MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

3. AGREEMENT SETTING UP SPACE COMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION WAS SIGNED APRIL 13, 1976 IN CAIRO AT ARAB LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS. GOE'S PEOPLES ASSEMBLY APPROVED EGYPTIAN MEMBERSHIP IN SEPTEMBER 1976. AS NOTED REFTEL SAUDI ARABIA WILL BE HEAD-QUARTERS OF NEWLY-INAUGURATED ORGANIZATION.

4. CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY. EILTS

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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